

The home insurance industry is actually under both a business model requirement and a fiduciary legal obligation to do its very, very best to predict risk, figure out what is driving that risk, and act accordingly.

For that reason, we had the president of Aon testify in the Budget Committee about how climate risk is damaging insurance markets. We have an editorial by a board member of the biggest insurance company in the world, Allianz. We have warnings from the risk manager—former risk manager—of Goldman Sachs. We have warnings from the former head of the Bank of England, now the Prime Minister of Canada. We have warnings from the Home Mortgage Association. We have warnings from the international Financial Stability Board.

There is an enormous amount of very solid and responsible data that comes not out of the environmental community but out of the financial community warning about the looming great climate insurance collapse. And if we refuse to pay attention to it, we will fail in our duties.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Hawaii.

TRIBUTE TO RHODA MAGBITANG AND LEE ANNE WONG

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I join everyone in Hawaii in congratulating chefs Rhoda Magbitang and Lee Anne Wong on their recent wins on “Top Chef” and “Last Chef Standing.” Both chefs displayed incredible skill and perseverance in their respective competitions and showcased what makes Hawaii’s food scene so special, with our unique blend of cultures and cuisines. I continue to think Hawaii is among the best eating places on the planet. I am so proud of both of them.

Chef Magbitang, who was born and raised in the Philippines and now lives in Waimea on the Big Island, paid tribute to her roots, sharing her take on classic Filipino dishes that she grew up eating.

Meanwhile, Chef Wong completed 24 challenges in 24 hours, winning with an ahi tuna dish prepared in a French-Japanese fusion style. Chef Wong’s restaurant, Papa’aina at the Pioneer Inn in Lahaina, was destroyed in the fires 3 years ago, but her cooking, infused all over with local ingredients and produce, lives on at Koko Head Cafe on O’ahu.

We are so lucky to have her and Chef Magbitang and so many other outstanding chefs who make Hawaii, Hawaii.

Congratulations on your wins. You have made Hawaii proud.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, \$600 million to build a ballroom at the White House, \$100 million to build a triumphal arch, \$250 million to renovate the Kennedy Center, \$60 million to host a UFC fight on the south lawn of the White House—these are the things Donald Trump is putting his time and energy into right now, along with a whole lot of taxpayer money.

Meanwhile, gas is more than 4 bucks a gallon nationally and \$5.58 in Hawaii, grocery prices keep going up, electricity bills are through the roof, millions of Americans don’t have health insurance at all this year, and rents and mortgages are almost impossible to keep up with.

This is not a question of whether you like sports or monuments. I like sports. I like UFC. I think the Capital City of the most powerful Nation in the history of the world should be beautiful and modern and vibrant. But that is not the point. This is a President who is so thoroughly distracted with his own personal pet projects that he has no time to do anything to lower prices and fix people’s actual problems. It is not that these are events that have overtaken his agenda—this is his agenda. These are his initiatives that he came up with that he is excited about.

It is plainly obvious that Donald Trump is distracted with things that have nothing to do with regular people’s lives, but you don’t have to take my word for it. Last week, after inflation reached the highest level in 3 years, he said:

I love the inflation.

After a few weeks, as a war of his own making was ravaging people’s paychecks, he said:

I don’t think about Americans’ financial situation.

“I don’t think about Americans’ financial situation.”

This is not making a partisan accusation; those are his words.

People all across the country are eating less and driving less and saving less and seeing the doctor less because of his actions—wars, tariffs, tax cuts for billionaires paid for by cutting working people’s healthcare—and yet all he can think about is where his next military adventure might be or what new monument he can build for himself.

It is not hard to imagine a focused and energetic President who exerts their authority to make people’s lives better, easier, more affordable, more fulfilling. And in the past, even when we didn’t agree with the President from the other party on solutions, at least we agreed on the problems; at least we agreed on what a Presidency was for—but not this President.

The problem was never that the Kennedy Center was too woke. The problem was never that gas was too cheap. No one woke up thinking “Gee, I wish we were involved in more wars” or “Man, I really ought to be throwing bigger parties for the President’s 80th

birthday.” No one asked for this. I want to be clear. No one asked for this—not the people who elected Donald Trump the second time, not the people who voted against Donald Trump the second time. No one asked for this. No one wants this. But we do have a President who is at the end of his political career, and with nothing to lose electorally, all he can think about is himself and his legacy—not you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote begin immediately.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON HOLDING NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Holding nomination?

Mrs. BRITT. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted “yea”.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 181 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Armstrong	Cotton	Hawley
Banks	Cramer	Husted
Barrasso	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blackburn	Cruz	Johnson
Boozman	Curtis	Justice
Britt	Daines	Kennedy
Budd	Ernst	Lankford
Capito	Fischer	Lee
Cassidy	Graham	Lummis
Collins	Grassley	Marshall
Cornyn	Hagerty	McCormick

Moreno	Rounds	Sullivan
Murkowski	Schmitt	Thune
Paul	Scott (FL)	Tillis
Ricketts	Shaheen	Wicker
Risch	Sheehy	Young

## NAYS—39

Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	King	Schatz
Booker	Klobuchar	Schiff
Cantwell	Luján	Schumer
Coons	Markey	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Smith
Fetterman	Murphy	Van Hollen
Galleo	Murray	Warner
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warnock
Hassan	Padilla	Warren
Heinrich	Peters	Welch
Hickenlooper	Reed	Whitehouse
Hirono	Rosen	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—13

Alsobrooks	Hoeben	Moran
Bennet	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Tuberville
Duckworth	McConnell	
Durbin	Moody	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. GRAHAM assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from New Jersey.

## FARM BILL

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I want to talk about a real crisis in America that we are not talking enough about. We have a farm crisis going on in the United States of America. It is facing our entire country. It is facing our rural areas, and it is facing some of the most noble Americans in our country who are part of a great tradition and a great heritage that is vital to all Americans.

We are in the midst of a farm crisis, and we are in the midst of a nutrition crisis. And despite the need for Congress to step up to this moment, to meet this crisis, and pass a bold farm bill, it is not happening right now.

Since we passed our last farm bill in 2018, we have lost over 150,000 farms—most of them small farms. That is an average of 51 farms we have lost every single day for the past 8 years. And the farmers who have managed to hang on are telling me that the economics of farming simply do not work for them anymore, and they fear that we are on the brink of another 1980s-type of farm crisis.

I am hearing more and more now from farmers about the reality that most of them have to seek off-farm employment just to be able to keep their families afloat.

Now, this trend has been going on for years. It is a trend that we saw under Democratic Presidents and Republican Presidents. It demands a bipartisan response. I know the policies of this administration, though, are making the situation worse for farmers—not better. They are acting as an incendiary to this horrible fire.

We see this President's reckless tariff policies have driven up costs for farm-

ers; President Trump's reckless war in Iran, which closed the Strait of Hormuz, drove up costs for our farmers; USDA's decision to cancel critical programs that farmers were relying upon such as local food purchasing programs for schools and food banks—these are all things that have severely hurt our farmers. USDA's staffing cuts and field office closures have further injured our farmers, and I could go on with that list.

But the heart of this problem that our farmers are facing, the heart of the problem is the massive amount of corporate concentration that has taken place in our food system over many decades as both Republican and Democratic administrations stopped enforcing our Federal anti-trust laws.

Farmers are now being squeezed by monopolies on all sides. A handful of companies now control the inputs that farmers need like seeds and fertilizers and drive up those prices. And at the same time, farmers now have very few buyers for their products, and so they are not being paid a fair price for their crops and for their animals.

Back in 2018, as I worked on my first farm bill here in the Senate, I went on a tour to meet with farmers—not just in New Jersey but also in Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas. Some of the farmers I met with were Democrats and some Republicans, but what I heard consistently from all of them was that our current farm system was not working for farmers.

Farmers and ranchers told me about how decades ago they would have many buyers competing and bidding up the price for their livestock, but now, today, they often only had one buyer who was able to dictate a low purchase price undercutting them as they made more profit.

I heard heart-wrenching stories about farmers whose land has been in their families for many generations but were now on the verge of losing their farm.

Farmers told me about how the current system was created to keep farmers growing commodity crops like corn and soy for animal feed rather than healthy foods to feed their communities they cared about because nearly all of our farm bill subsidies and safety net programs are designed to benefit big farmers growing a handful of commodity crops but not to support the farmers that grow the food that people eat like fruits and vegetables.

And these farmers were right. While our Federal dietary guidelines tell us that 50 percent of our diet should consist of fruits and vegetables, less than 10 percent of our farm bill agricultural subsidies actually go to farmers that grow fruits and vegetables.

And that has led us to the second crisis I mentioned: The nutrition crisis in the United States of America.

Diet-related chronic disease is now the No. 1 killer of Americans. Every single day in America, 2,700 people die from diet-related diseases. That is

nearly a million Americans dead every year from what we eat.

Half of adults are now prediabetic or diabetic—one in four of our teenagers are. Half the children alive in this country today are projected to be obese by the time they are 35. Cancer rates in young people are climbing. Dementia rates across our country are climbing. And a chorus of doctors and researchers are now tying this explosion of diet-related diseases directly to the ultraprocessed foods Americans are eating every single day.

And so what our farmers need right now—and what all Americans need—is for Democrats and Republicans to come together and pass a much bolder bipartisan farm bill that provides immediate assistance to our farmers—the assistance that they desperately need.

We are losing farmers every day, and this body and the House and the President are not rising to meet this crisis.

Farmers are wondering: Who is fighting for us? We need to show them that we are—in concrete policies that address their issues, that address this farm crisis, and for the millions of Americans suffering from preventable diseases that affects the nutrition crisis too.

Farmers in America—our fellow Americans that farm—need a farm bill that provides substantial emergency financial assistance to all of our struggling farmers—and especially our specialty crop farmers who have so far been shortchanged in this administration.

Farmers need a farm bill that puts more money into conservation programs and begins to reform those programs to better serve farmers and help them diversify their farms.

And farmers need a farm bill that makes other policy changes to help our farmers and ranchers—policy changes like restoring mandatory country-of-origin labeling, reforming our Federal checkoff programs that are so broken, strengthening the Packers and Stockyards Act to protect our farmers and ranchers from abuses by big meatpacking companies creating a real farm safety net for specialty crop farmers in America.

Farmers need a bold farm bill that reinstates funding for healthy food purchases from our local farmers for schools and food banks.

Farmers need a bold farm bill that scales up programs like SNAP Double Bucks that purchase fresh fruits and vegetables from small farmers and gets those healthy foods to families that are participating in the SNAP program.

Not only would a bold farm bill like that be a lifeline to our farmers, but it would be an example of using food as medicine and provide healing—healing—to Americans suffering from diabetes and other diet-related diseases.

But unfortunately, how did the House of Representatives—the Republican-led House respond in this moment? Well, they passed a farm bill that fails to meet this crisis, that fails to lead when